October 8, 1954

Since writing my article on "Continental Currency Coinage" I am informed of an additional matter, in the Journals of the Continental Congress, by Mr. Raymond H. Williamson, of Liverpool, New York, as follows:

In "Journals of the Continental Congress", published by the Library of Congress, Volume 3, pages 426-7 and pages 430-1, is the following:

> December 13, 1775. On motion, resolved, that when this congress shall adjourn, it will be necessary to appoint a committee to sit during the adjournment for the purpose of superintending the treasury carrying on necessary correspondence and such other services as shall be directed by congress. Resolved that a committee of 5 be appointed to consider and prepare instructions for the committee above mentioned."

The members appointed to the committee are: Jefferson, Mr. Hooper, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay and Mr.Deane.

> December 15,1775. "The committee appointed to consider and prepare instructions for a committee who are to sit during the recess of congress have agreed to the following resolutions: Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee that the said committee, during the recess of congress, should be authorized and instructed * * * to expedite the striking monies ordered by the congress to be struck."

This is just a general authorization to do a great many things and no inference can be drawn from the language. Actually, the congrss did not adjourn over Christmas and worked through the holidays.

Eric P. Newman

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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January 3, 1955

Mr. Eric Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 20 enclosing your check for prints of material from the Franklin Papers.

I regret that some of the words in the November 19, 1779 letter were illegible. This was due not to poor printing, but because the mounting tape on the letter covered a portion of the inner margin. The words which you could not decipher are: page 2, line 1 - 108th; page 2, lines 22 & 23 - "As to Politics you know I am an ignrant (sic) Fellow so you must not expect...

Now with respect to the dates on the other two letters, I believe the letter from Finlay to Lee is May 2, 1778, but the one from Genet to Franklin is undoubtedly 1779.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude D. Hess

Gertrude D. Hess
Assistant Librarian

GDH:aml

October 31, 1955

American Philosophical Society
Fifth and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

I am writing an article on early American coinage and I was fortunate to find in the index of Franklin papers in your collection several items, the text of which I need. Would you be kind enough to send me copies of the following and to advise me of the cost so I may remit.

		Your No.
Edward Bridgen to Franklin	Sept. 17,1779	XV 196
" " " "	Nov. 19,1779	XVI 118
" " " "	Sept. 8,1783	XXIX 132
	May 11,1784	XXXI 171
	Aug. 4,1785	XXXIII 161
	1786?	XL 124
Elbridge Gerry to John Adams	May 5,1780	LIV 110b & 120b
Robert Finlay to Arthur Lee	May 2,1778	LLVII 107
Genet to Franklin	Sept. 29,1778	XX 175
Bank of North America to Banks	Dec. 8,1789	XXXVI 157

If the text of any of these letters is already published please send me the reference.

These letters may prove that Franklin is responsible for the motto on the Continental paper money, the pewter dollars and the 1787 Fugio coppers to the effect that time flies, so mind your business.

I will be very greatful for your prompt cooperation and if you need a reference, I am secretary of the Missouri Historical Society.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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Telephone: LOmbard 3-9545

November 1, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

In reply to your letter of October 31 relative to material in the Franklin Papers we enclose one of our photoduplication order blanks explaining our services and charges. If you will sign and return this checking whether you wish microfilm or enlargement prints we shall try to fill your order promptly. I might add that we can give quicker service on microfilm rather than enlargement prints.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude D. Hess
Assistant Librarian

GDH:aml

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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127 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Telephone: LOmbard 3-9545

December 15, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

As a temporary expedient in order to catch up with a considerable back-log of photographic orders, we had your recent order for enlargement prints reproduced by the Xerographic method. While the quality of the prints is not up to our usual standards, we hope that they will be satisfactory. Should you wish any for reproduction, we can supply clean glossies.

The prints are being sent under separate cover; bill enclosed herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude D. Hess

Gertrude D. Hess
Assistant Librarian

GDH:aml

Philadelphia 6, Pa. December 14, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

To The American Philosophical Society Library

127 SOUTH FIFTH STREET

30 prints	at .25	$7.50
(Bridgen-Franklin material; cf. Order No.1311)		
mailing		.21
		$7.71

Prints sent under separate cover

Received Payment

Check should be drawn to the order of the Society.

Assistant Librarian

December 20, 1955

American Philosophical Society
127 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

Thank you for sending me copies of the material which I ordered on November 3, for which I enclose check in accordance with your statement.

Some of the items are a little difficult to read but I have finally been able to do so with one or two trivial exceptions and would appreciate it if you could examine the originals in that connection.

The last word on the first line of page 2 of the letter dated November 19, 1779 (Vol. 16, Frame 118) is probably 108 or 108th and I would appreciate it if you can advise me what it is. I am also unable to read the last words in the 22nd and 23rd lines on that page. One may be "politicians" and the other I have no idea. These parts of the letter did not print properly.

There is one very important matter in these letters to which I wish to call your attention. The letter from Finlay to Lee (Vol. 47, Frame 107) and Genet to Franklin (Vol. 11, Frame 175) are both, in my opinion, 1779 and not 1778 and I would appreciate it if you will examine them more carefully. In the first letter the "9" is hastily written and from the stroke it appears to be a "9" instead of an "8". Whoever put the date on the outside of the letter probably did so at a later time and was also deceived by the writing. The second letter is also a piece of hasty writing but is, fortunately, noted correctly on the outside cover. The text of this letter is tied in directly with Vol. 15, Frame 196, and, therefore, is definitely, 1779. Would you be kind enough to give these matters a final check and possibly correct your records accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

March 29, 1956

Mr. Alston G. Bradfield, Editor
The Numismatist
P. O. Box 3191
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bradfield:

In your letter of March 25,1956, you mentioned you were going to do an issue on Franklin. I have some material concerning Franklin's interest in copper coinage for the United States which I think is very important. He was definitely negotiating for copper currency at the time he was in France during the Revolutionary War and I have copies of a few of the letters involving it.

If you would like an episode on this particular subject,I can prepare it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

THE NUMISMATIST
Official Magazine of the
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
ELSTON G. BRADFIELD, Editor
P. O. Box 3491
CHICAGO 54, ILLINOIS

March 31, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 29th with your gracious offer of help on the proposed Franklin issue of The Numismatist. I am very pleased to know you have letters and other material concerning his interest in copper coins and believe an article on the subject will fit in perfectly with the project. I accept your offer with thanks.

Briefly, the special number devoted entirely to Benj. Franklin, is tentatively scheduled for the August, 1956, issue of The Numismatist. That means that articles, photos, etc., should be in my hands by June 1. That is the deadline at which we are aiming. So far a dozen or so numismatists are at work on special assignment. In order to co-ordinate the program, I send out a "round-robin" to each and hope to get another out in a few days. You'll receive a copy.

Can you give me an idea as to the length of your article? Will illustration be required?

With best personal regards and my sincere appreciation for your offer, I am

Cordially

Elston G. Bradfield

Re: Benjamin Franklin Issue of The Numismatist

To: Melvin Fuld, Richard T. Hoober, Eric P. Newman, June Pond, Leonel C.Panosh, Arthur Sipe, M. V. Sheldon, Glenn Smedley, R. H. Williamson, L.S.Werner.

1. Please note increase in size of the team. Am grateful for added help.
   Mr. Hoober will do B.F. and paper money issues, colonial and continental.
   Mr. Newman has the story of B,F. and the copper coinage.
   Mr. Williamson has been working on the Franklin Press token, for some time, and will wrap it up.
   The other assignments remain the same. (Mrs. Pond, Boston school medals; Melvin Fuld, B.F.medals & tokens; L.S.Werner, medals and tokens in NYC; Mr. Sipe, B.F.material in Philadelphia; Mr. Smedley, B.F.on paper money, since Revolution; Mr. Sheldon, B.F. & Great Seal; the Editor will try to co-ordinate the whole. Pres. Panosh is receiving this memo FYI (newspaper parlance for "For Your Information")

2. Deadline remains the same --- June 1. I must have material by that time if we are even to entertain the idea of making August Numis the special Franklin number. I'll appreciate receiving anything in advance of that date, rather than having everything hit me at once.

3. If Mr. Fuld or Mr. Werner has developed enoughmaterial for a preliminary list of medals and tokens which can be distributed, I'll appreciate having it sent to interested persons. Those who should have such a list are Mrs. Pond, Messrs. Fuld, Sipe, Werner & Bradfield. Said listing will be the starter or base from which we'll work.

4. May I have a few lines from each of you -- a sort of progress report -- outlining where your project stands at the moment, giving me an idea of the wordage (if you can), how soon I can expect the manuscript, picture possibilities, etc. We're going to have to start specific planning soon.

5. What is your thought on stating sizes of medals, etc. --- sixteenths or millimeters? Since Appleton's listing was in 16ths, think we should continue using that.

6. All who take part in this activity will receive credit, even though the individual's contribution is a very minor one. You can tell this to anyone who gives you help.

7. Appreciate what each of you is doing, and looking forward to the first positive evidence of the research you are doing. Best personal regards

Cordially

Elston G. Bradfield

Elston G. Bradfield
Editor

APR 7 1956

April 30, 1956

Mr. Elston Bradfield, Editor
American Numismatic Society
P. O. Box 3421
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bradfield:

In order to cooperate with you with respect to the Franklin number, I am enclosing herewith the article I have written with respect to Franklin and the copper coinage for the United States. I am sending an extra copy or so in the event you wish it reviewed by others so as to avoid duplication.

I do not believe it is necessary to have a picture of the Fugio design as that is extremely well known but if you feel that it will add something we can use photographs of either the paper money, the pewter coinage or the copper coinage.

If I can help you by reviewing or coordinating any of the work which others have done please let me know. In the past I have done considerable work on colonial paper money as well as state banknotes.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 30, 1956

Mr. Raymond B. Williamson
103 Iroquois Lane
Liverpool, New York

Dear Mr. Williamson:

I sincerely appreciated your letter of April 25, 1956 with respect to Franklin and his thoughts on copper coinage. I was familiar with most of these items but there were certain ones involving Bridgen alone which I had not sought out. I was trying to emphasize only those items in which Franklin was a participant. In any event, I have original photostats of the Bridgen-Franklin correspondence and will publish those in detail. I am sending you a copy of what I have written for your file.

I have never done any research on the Franklin press token and, therefore, cannot help you off-hand.

I have completely revised and rewritten my article on Virginia coinage and, again, I wish to express my sincere thanks for your helpfulness. We must meet soon, as I see we have a great deal in common interest.

Sorry your work interferes with your hobby. I am trying to see that that doesn't happen to me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Because of the complexity of our undertaking, I regret it will be necessary to postpone the special Franklin issue until the end of the year. The final date, therefore, for all material is Oct. 1, 1956. This deadline will not be changed. Will you please, therefore, get your material to me before that date--as much before as you can. Thanks for your help.

Elston G. Bradfield

Elston G. Bradfield, Editor
The Numismatist
P. O. Box 3497
Chicago 54, Ill.

THE NUMISMATIST
Official Magazine of the
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
ELSTON G. BRADFIELD, Editor
P. O. Box 3491
CHICAGO 54, ILLINOIS

May 2, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Secretary, Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
4th and Washington Aves.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This will acknowledge, with thanks, your article on Franklin and the copper coinage which reached me today. I am anticipating the pleasure of reading it and certainly appreciate the effort you made to get it to me. Yours is the first complete story to come to me in the Franklin series, the other being first and second draft of another article. I may take advantage of your offer of assistance in reviewing or coordinating the work of this special number. Because of the incompleteness of some of the program and the difficulties inherent in a joint effort of this type, I've had to change the deadline to Oct. 1, 1956. I expect another article next week and hope others will come in from time to time well ahead of deadline. As soon as I get the June Numismatist out of the way, I'll prepare your article for the printer.

Thanks again for your ever-ready help. With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours Elston G. Bradfield

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CABLES - EFMAWLAW, LONDON.

Stafford House,
Norfolk Street, Strand,
London, W.C.2.

14th May 1956

PLEASE QUOTE
OUR REFERENCE M.
YOUR "

Dear Jack,

We have been very fortunate in our research into the history of Bridgen and Waller and Edward Bridgen and I enclose a note which I think should be interesting to your friend.

Yours sincerely

Freddie

J.S. Abbott Esq.,
113 Titchfield Street
KILmarnock, Ayrshire

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Kilmarnock Scotland

16th May 1956.

Eric Newman, Esq.,
Secretary,
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis,
Mo. U.S.A.

Dear Eric,

I asked a friend who was at Cambridge with me, who is something of an amateur historian, to take an interest in our research and I enclose his letter and report on Bridgen and Waller and Edward Bridgen. If you are interested in the "Notes and Queries" referred to on page 3 of Mr Maw's report I shall be very pleased to ask him to let us have a full copy.

You notice that the report ends with the note that he has not been able to find any reference to Benjamin Franklin but possibly you may be able to give us another clue on this association.

I feel sure that you will be interested in Freddie Maw's report and if you care to drop him a line direct he will be delighted to hear from you.

With greetings to you both in which Peggy joins.

Yours sincerely,

Jack

Bridgen and Waller and Edward Bridgen

Bridgen and Waller were established at least as early as 1754, for in that year they subscribed to "The Works of Aaron Hill". From 1765 to 1780 at least they appear in the "New and Complete Guide to London" and in Kent's Directory, and are stated to be merchants, of 2 Lowel Court, Paternoster Row in the City of London. There is no more detailed description of their business. By 1791 however they had moved to Warwick Place, Bedford Row.

In a list of the Aldermen of the City of London (Lime Street Waed) there is an entry as follows :
31 January, 1724
Sir Richard Hopkins, Cutler,(Sheriff), elected by [illegible] votes to 72 for Edward Bridgen, cutler, reduced on scrutiny to 66 and 48.

In the History of the Cutlers' Company of London : Welch, vol. 2 1923. there are references to Edward Bridgen. One states that "Sir Richard's rival in 1724 had been one of two unsuccessful candidates who disputed an election in Tower Ward December 1717. He was defeated by Henry Hankey in Langbourn Ward, September 1728" by 140 votes to 90. He was warden of the Cutlers' Company in 1729-30.

He is referred to again in the list of Cutlers' payments to the Chamberlain for Apprentices, 1703- in which there is a note that on the 7th December 1722 Edward paid [illegible].6d. each for William and Richard Bridgen, the sons of Francis Bridgen of Bridgeworth. There is also an entry which may say that Edward was himself apprenticed in 1703 but the page is so badly damaged that the whole name does not survive and this may well mean something else . In the Cutlers' Company Freedom Book 1613-1790 "Richard Bridgen Nephew and Apprentice of Mr. Warden Bridgen sworn and admitted a freeman of this Company this 23rd December 1730." There seems to be no record of Edward's own admission but the record is so badly damged as to be incomplete.

(Incidentally, William later became Lord Mayor of London, and was a friend of John Wilkes, who said that he was very mean, especially over his own Lord Mayor's Feast.)

There is no obvious link here with the man you want, except the copper/cutlery connection, but I imagine that his address would have been recorded somewhere, as he was fairly important; he was, though ,really too early to be a friend of Franklin's, I suppose. There are, however, other records which may or may not refer to the same man, but are obviously the man you want :

The parish records of St. Faith under St. Paul's show the following entries :

Names	Constable and Inquest	Collector of Lamps etc.
Edwd. /Bridgen ~~and Waller~~ (sic) 2 hss.	Mr. Bridgen fined 1755	

(The note "2 hss." perhaps means two houses, or possibly two horses. As you probably know the fines were optional in lieu of service ; there is also a note elsewhere that he was fined for not serving as collector of lamps.)

and in a later and fuller version :

Inhabitants names	Commenced	Parish offices	Served or fined	Ward offices	Served or fined
Edwd. Bridgen & Ge.(sic)	1751 (dec'd 1780)	Church Warden	1751 Fined £10	Constable and Inquest	1755 Fined £10

There are also the following obituary notices :

1) In the Gentleman's Magazine 1787 :

"At Lovel's Court, Paternoster row, Edward Bridgen Esq.; F.A.S. treasurer to the Society of Antiquaries, a respectable merchant, son-in-law to the famous Richardson, and a valuable contributor to our Miscellany; where we hope to record some further memorials of him."

and Lines occasioned by the death of Edward Bridgen Esq.

Still, tho' ascending to its kindred skies,
With virtuous haste the soul of Bridgen flies;
And, conscious of the paths he purely trod,
Seeks, in glad hope, the bosom of his God :
What friend, resigned, can view the funeral bier,
Or hail the spirit blest, without a tear ?
And freely let it flow, for heaven will prize,
The good man's grief when his associate dies,
Assur'd that those its precepts must have kept.
For whom a Jebb would sigh and Hollis wept.

(Hollis and Jebb were friends of his).

2) In Musgrave's Obituary

Bridgen Edward, 1777 F.R. and A.S., Mercht., Paternoster Row. 28 July 1787.
Bridgen Martha (Mrs.), Paternoster Row, wife of Edward Bridgen, Treasr. of Antiq. Soc., and dau. of Samuel Richardson. 12 Feb. 1793

Most important of all, however are two articles in "Notes and Queries" (Series 12. vols. 12 and 13). These fairly long articles are mainly concerned with his relationship with his father-in-law, Samuel Richardson. They are rather long, but if you can't get hold of "Notes and Queries", I will let you have a copy of them . The relevant parts seem to be the following :

He was married in 1762 : the Gentleman's Magazine reports, "April 24- Mr. Bridgen of Paternoster Row merchant - to Miss Richardson, of Parson's Green."

There is also an entry in the Fulham register :"Edward Bridgen widower of the parish of St. Faith, London-Martha Richardson, spinster of this parish".

His will bequeathed all his estate in North Carolina(left to him by his sister De Rosset of that state) to Joseph Spilsbury Esq. of Mayfair.

The author of the article says, "Bridgen's political sympathies are indicated by his bequest to Thomas Brand Hollis of the portraits of "Mr. Laurens" and "Mr. Paine" that hung in his drawing-room. "Mr.

Paine" was, of course, Thomas Paine (1737 -1809), author of "The Rights of Man", who had accompanied Colonel Laurens, the American envoy, as his secretary, on his mission to France in 1781. Thomas Brand Hollis.....was the institutor, with the Duke of Richmond, of the "Constitutional Society"... What his red pocket books contained , all sealed up and directed to Brand Hollis, I do not know, but the circumstances suggest their political interest."

There is, however, no reference to Franklin.

Frankenstein
14 May 1950

May 28, 1956

Mr. Jack Abbott
Saxone Shoe Company Ltd.
P. O. Box 4
Kilmarnock, Scotland

Dear Jack:

I was pleasantly surprised by your kindness in forwarding the research concerning Edward Bridgen which your friend, Mr. W. Graham Maw was kind enough to do. It is very helpful to me in understanding the background of the relationship between Bridgen and Franklin. Since this is the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth, I was asked to write on Franklin's participation in coinage and it was for that reason I wished to investigate Edward Bridgen. Bridgen and Franklin, apparently, were close friends and as the notes forwarded to me indicate, Bridgen was very sympathetic with the American position during the American Revolution. When Bridgen's property in North Carolina was forfeited, Franklin helped have the ownership reinstated. The most interesting phase of the matter is, however, Franklin's proposals for mottoes on coins to be made by Bridgen for America as they involved Franklin's philosophy of industry and thrift.

I am sending to Mr. Maw, under separate cover, a draft of my article which has already been sent in for publication. I am very grateful to Mr. Maw for his cooperation. If Mr. Maw is doing any historical research where I can be of benefit to him, please do not have him hesitate to call on me for that purpose.

An article I completed a few months ago entitled "Coinage for Colonial Virginia" is being published the latter part of this year and another article entitled "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War" will be published soon. The latter article is rather amusing from the point of view of the devilment caused by the British in counterfeiting our paper money during the American Revolution. It is the first example in history where counterfeiting was used to destroy the credit and stability of an enemy rather than merely for personal gain. You British adopted it as a standard procedure thereafter.

May 28, 1956

Mr. Jack Abbott
Kilmarnock, Scotland

Evelyn and I are soon to be off on our customary trip to somewhere. We are going to Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar and the Belgian Congo. We will try to see how you British and the natives are getting along as well as whether the animals like to have their pictures taken. We do not hunt but I am sure you and Peggy would enjoy such a trip. It is possible that we may come back through London just to get a little culture. We still remember the delightful supper and theatre party with you last year.

Our kindest regards to you.

Sincerely,

ERIC F. HAWKAR

CC: Mr. J. Graham Maw
Rowe & Maw
Stafford House
Norfolk Street, Strand,
London W.C. 2, England

12/11/56

You previously indicated you would send me 12 copies of this issue and I find I will need about 20 copies. I have a great many obligations to libraries and historical societies who helped me. None, of course, will be sold.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

December 11, 1956

Mr. Elston G. Bradfield, Editor
P. O. Box 3491
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bradfield:

I wish to congratulate you on the Benjamin Franklin Issue of the Nonjournalist.

The amount of planning, editing and organization which you put in to this number is very evident and I know this issue particularly will be permanently appreciated.

Heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely,

[illegible]

[illegible]/atb

May 5, 1780 Phila

Elbridge Gerry to

John Adams

about money depreciation
currency question, lack of
coin

LIV, 110b and
120b

Bridgen to Franklin Aug 4, 1785

will be glad to hear news on proposals
to Congress on coining copper.

XXXIII, 181

Bridgen to Franklin London May 11, 1784

Urabia Prospect of proceeding on copper coinage

1 page

XXXI, 171

Letter from
June 7, 1786
Richard Caswell to Franklin

telling that North Carolina legislature passed act to restore to Edward Bridgen his property

(one page) XXXIV 90

Bridgen to Franklin (1786?)

Ambition to present U.S with best copper coin in the world
Thanks to Franklin for restoration of his ~~estate~~ in North Carolina. XL 124

Edme Jacques Genet to Franklin
Sept 4, ~~1778~~ 1779 (1778 is an error)
Requested by Bridgen to present Franklin the Cherokee packet

XI 175

8/6/89 Phila

Letter from

Bank of North America
to
Benj Franklin Bache

Print tickets of 3/90ths + 1/90th
for public commence because
copper coin suspended

XXXVI 167

Robert Finlay to Arthur Lee
in Paris

May 2, 1778 from Bordeaux

Copper is wanted for United Colonies
with such stamp as should
be that proper

XLVII 107

this is 1779
I believe

Sept 6, 1779 Budgen to Franklin
written from London

Calendar of the Papers of Benj Frankl Vol II p 141
Sept 17, 1779
Budgen to Franklin

Am Philosophical Society
Fifth & Chestnut
Phila

XV 196

from London
Nov 19, 1779 Vol II p 171
Budgen to Franklin
Question of coins

XVI 118

Sept 8, 1783 London Edw Budgen to Franklin
Budgen & Waller offers ~~[illegible]~~ to
furnish U S with coin

XXIX 132

Aug 2, 1786 Budgen to Franklin
London
Debts due Budgen & Waller
~~Coins~~
~~[illegible]~~ Recovery of estate

XXXIV 110 110½
~~[illegible]~~ as well as
XLIV 79

Albert S. Bolles (N.Y. 1879
N.Y. 1884 second edit)
The Financial History of the United States
from 1774 to 1789 embracing the per
of the Amer Rev

Robert Finlay

Major Fraser (Persifor Frazer?)

Edme Jacques Genet ~~[illegible]~~ Premier Commission of Bureau of Interpretation of foreign affairs

Arthur Lee Westmoreland County [redacted], Va 1740
medical doctor first & became lawyer

Delap.

On Sept 14, 1778 Benj Franklin was elected by the Cont Congress as minister plenipotentiary to the court of France

Committee appointed to consider State of money & finance on Aug 27, 1778

Robert Morris John Witherspoon
Elbridge Gerry
Richard Henry Lee Gouverneur Morris

Report of Committee on Currency & Finance

Broadside Papers of Cont Cong No 26, folio 2-3
52 x 41 cms

~~Franklin letter of Oct 2, 1779~~

~~Private Correspondence of Benjamin Franklin etc~~
~~edited by William Temple Franklin~~
~~London, 1817 p. 46~~

~~The Works of Benjamin Franklin p 383~~
~~edited by Jared Sparks, Boston 1839~~

Report on the establishment of a mint
J C C Feb 21, 1782 mentioned
Text in P. C. C. No 19, IV folio 345

Edward Bridgen
Lowel Court
Pater Noster Court
London.

an intelligent & very well educated young man.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

McMaster Vol I p 194
History of the People of the United States
During the Revolution shortage was so
short it was suggested that coppers be
struck in France showing the bachelor
which the English officers which the
English officers were affecting on the
[illegible] and another about [illegible]
[illegible] etc

See letter of Franklin to Edward Bridgen
Oct 21, 1779

Franklin's Works Vol VIII p 383

[illegible] 5/14/82
[illegible]

McMaster Vol I p 405
Adams to Jay Apr 22, 1787
[illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] of the South [illegible]

Journals of the Continental Congress Feb 20 ,1777
Vol.VII p.136-8

" The committee on ways and means for supplying the treasury, and supporting the credit of the continental currency,brought ina report,which was read:

****

"That a Mint be forthwith established for ~~xxx~~ coining money, and that it be referred to the Board of Treasury to prepare and report a proper plan for regulating the same, and a suitable device to be stamped on the coin.

"That as much Gold and Silver bullion as can be procured in these States be purchased and paid for in continental currency or loan Certificates payable in Specie with Interest at four per cent per annumat the expiration of three years after the termination of the present war, and that the bullion so purchased be coined into money, of such value and denominations as shall hereafter be ordered by Congress.

" That any persons who will bring gold or silver to the mint may have it coined on their own account.

"That a quantity of Copper be purchased andcoined into pence and half pence,each penny to weigh half an ounce Avoirdupoize and be in value equal to one seventy-second part of a Dollar"

Ordered ,To lie on the table.

The above report is in the writing of Roger Sherman and is found in Papers of the Continental Congress No.26,folio 13

Committee appointed Feb 11, 1777
Sherman had been on committee to ascertain valu
of gold + silver coins having been appointed 1 April 19, 1776

In Franklin's Almanac for 1758

[illegible]

"Benjamin Franklin" by Carl Van Doren p 267 (1938)

"Lost time is never found again" ~~1748~~

from Poor Richard Almanac 1748

Van Doren p 267

[illegible] Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence
edited by Francis Wharton, Washington 1889 Vol VI p 329

Office of Finance April 23, 1783

Robert Morris to President of Congress

Says On Feb 21, 1782 Congress approved estab mint + ordered plan prepared. Specimens of coin enclosed

"I now enclose specimens of a coin", ~~with a [illegible]~~

Delay explained — wants to meet committee

The Numismatist April 1936
Vol XLIX p 258

Essay by Franklin entitled "Thoughts Concerning Medals"

After stating that the dies for the medal for Fleury cost 100 Guineas he says they ought to be used to strike coins, medal dies should be made coin size He then says

"Copper Coins are wanting in America for small change. We have none but those of the King of England. After one Silver or Gold Medal is struck from the Dies, for the Person to be honour'd, they may be usefully employed in striking Copper money or in some Cases small Silver."

This was written about 1780 as the Fleury medal was struck in 1779 and more medals for others were about to be struck

Crosby p 302

In 1756 David Rittenhouse at the age of 24 made a clock for his brother in law Thomas Barton

Tempus Fugit
Go about your business

Son of Thomas Barton

William Barton's Memoirs of David Rittenhouse
p 46

this is Francis Hopkinson

~~Judge Hopkinson~~
~~ded Continental~~ Latin mottos

The Complete Works of Benjamin Franklin
compiled & edited by John Bigelow NY. 1888

your conquests, and, I hope, make more. But I do not hear of any intention to send any to our country. I have no orders to request troops, but large ones for supplies, and I dare not take any further steps than I have done in such a proposition without orders. Accept in behalf of the Congress my thankful acknowledgments for your zeal to serve America. Occasions may offer which at present do not appear, wherein your bravery and conduct may be highly useful to her.

May every felicity attend you, is the wish of, dear sir, your affectionate and most obedient servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

Written to London.
See other side

DCCCXXVIII.

"To Mr. Bridgen, London" TO EDWARD BRIDGEN.

PASSY, 2 October, 1779.

DEAR SIR:—I received your favor of the 17th past, and the two samples of copper are since come to hand. The metal seems to be very good, and the price reasonable, but I have not yet received the orders necessary to justify my making the purchase proposed. There has indeed been an intention to strike copper coin, that may not only be useful as small change, but serve other purposes.

Instead of repeating continually upon every halfpenny the dull story that everybody knows (and what it would have been no loss to mankind if nobody had ever known), that George the Third is King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, etc., etc., to put on one side, some important proverb of Solomon, some pi-

Same letter without

The Numismatist Jan 1934
Vol XLVII p 29

Same letter in

The Private Correspondence of
Benjamin Franklin
edited by William Temple Franklin
London 1817

p. 46

where title is correctly listed as
"To Mr. Budgen, London"

Also:
The Works of Benjamin Franklin, edited
by Jared Sparks, Boston 1839
p. 383

ous moral, prudential or economical precept, the frequent inculcation of which, by seeing it every time one receives a piece of money, might make an impression upon the mind, especially of young persons, and tend to regulate the conduct: such as, on some, *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;* on others, *Honesty is the best policy;* on others, *He that by the plough would thrive, himself must either hold or drive;* on others, *Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee;* on others, *A penny saved is a penny got;* on others, *He that buys what he has no need of, will soon be forced to sell his necessaries;* on others, *Early to bed and early to rise, will make a man healthy, wealthy, and wise;* and so on, to a great variety.

The other side it was proposed to fill with good designs, drawn and engraved by the best artists in France, of all the different species of barbarity with which the English have carried on the war in America, expressing every abominable circumstance of their cruelty and inhumanity that figures can express, to make an impression upon the minds of posterity as strong and durable as that on the copper. This resolution has been a long time forborne; but the late burning of defenceless towns in Connecticut, on the flimsy pretence that the people fired from behind their houses, when it is known to have been premeditated and ordered from England, will probably give the finishing provocation, and may occasion a vast demand for your metal.

I thank you for your kind wishes respecting my health. I return them most cordially fourfold unto your own bosom. Adieu, B. FRANKLIN.

Letter dated Sept 17, 1779 from Edward Bridgen to Benjamin Franklin

American Philosophical Society
Vol 15, Frame 196

"

Dear Sir.

"I have sent to the care of our good monsieur Genet 2 Samples of Metal intended for the Current Coin when they are doubtless much wanted and yield an immense profit to the Governmt

"I hereby engage to deliver at the port of London as fine in quality and of the same size and weight as those samples any quantity at 14 d Sterling p. pound weight – Package, Cartage and other Incidental expences to be paid by the purchaser. Peices of half the weight or double the weight may be had on the same terms and all of the best Copper. these peices are 1/3 of an ounce and may well pass for the same value as halfpence do in England. I beg to know your sentiments as soon as possible otherways the proprietor must make his offer to another quarter here.

"If a Die is wanting that may also be procured here with the necessary implements for working the same. In that case proper drawings must be furnished but I think it would not be so provident to have the execution here.

"As it will be a ready money article upon the delivery of the metal the Cash or good Bills at 2 mo a (vise) should be provided and if the proposal be accepted I wish to know your opinion how much may be wanted.

"May your most valuable life be preserved to Nestorian age or as long as you can be happy in yourself and can contribute to the felicity of mankind is the sincere wish of my Dr Sir

Y. faithful & Affect
Edwd Bridgen
Sep 17, 1779 "

In Franklin's handwriting on the back of the letter is a calculation of the cost:

"lb Pieces
1000 48000
Cost £ 58.6.8"

Letter written by Robert Finlay from Bordeaux France, May 2, 1778 to Arthur Lee, Commissioner of the United States, Paris, France
(the 1779 is apparently correct - the 1779 is badly written + copied as 1778)
Amer Phil Soc.
Vol 47 Frame 107

Fraser

Delap

vis unita fortior

R. Finlay upon
Copper Coin
2 May 1778

To the Honourable
Arthur Lee Esqr
Commissioner to the Mighty
Honourable the United States
of America at No. 5. Chaillot
Paris

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM
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VOL 47 FRAME 107

Dear Sir

Bordeaux the 2d. May 1778

107.

Conversing with Major Fraser this morning we came on the Subject of Coin & he seemed to think a Large quantity of Copp. Coin would be usefull & necessary for the united Colonies. beg to know if you & your friends at Paris are of Same opinion. for on proper Conditions, I could contract for the Delivery of any quantity, with such Stamp or Stamps as Should be thought proper, on reasonable Terms on which Subject Intend to Converse with Mr. Delap tomorrow, whose assistance as a monied man may be necessary & if requisite I will travell to Paris to give all further Illucidations necessary. Suppose 13. Ears of Corn bound to gather, with the words, vis unita fortior, round for the one Side & Something proper on the Other. I congratulate you on great Success of your affairs & am with great Esteem

Dear Sir Your most Obed. Servt.

R. Finlay

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM
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VOL 47 FRAME 107

It was with singular pleasure that I received the honour of your Excellency's letter dated Nov.r 29th but it was very sluggish in its travels it did not reach my hands until the 25th Ultimo and then brought to me by my kind friend Coll.l Smith: in the 1st place owing to the circuitous Journey of Mr Peters and the address to me as Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries London, When I had been much easier found out as a Merch.t in London or in Pater Noster Row. However Sir I am not the less indebted to you for the honour you have done me.

Your Excellency has obliged me much by your intention of writing to know what is likely to be done about the Copper Coin as it is an object of my Ambition to furnish the States with the handsomest and best Copper Coin of any Nation in the known World.

I have also my kind friend to return you my grateful thanks for a singular piece of service your Excellency hath rendered me for I have just received letters from North Carolina informing me that the Legislature of that State have restored me my Estate owing to your representation of my Case after a part of it had been actually sold for £2100 of their paper Money which is ordered

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM
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VOL 40 FRAME 124

to be paid into the hands of my Attorney. I hope that it will produce something; as I lost 1800 of their currency during the War, which I ordered to be paid into the Treasury.

This restoration makes useless a letter I took the liberty to Governor Caswall thro' Yr. Excellency's hands last Month by the Commerce.

May health and happiness attend you and yours, my Dear Sir is the wish of the heart of

Yr. Excellency's

much obliged & faithful

Edward Bridgen

His Excellency
Benjn. Franklin

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VOL 40 FRAME 124

His Excellency

Benj.n Franklin

President, of the State

of Pensylvania

by favor of

Rich.d Peters Esq.r

VOL 40
FR 1-4
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Bridges

Nov. 19, 1779.

Dear Sir

118

The letter you favoured me with dated Oct. 2 never reached me untill the 15th Currant therefore for the future I beg my letters may be addressed to Bridges & Walker In London with a Small B just under the Seal and sent under cover A Monsieur Mons.r J. B. Hermans au Bureau de la poste A Anvers and though Antwerp is a little round about they will come safe. I am Vastly pleased with the Motto's for the Medals will you permit me to add one? The safety of the State is in the Jealousy of y.e People. I don't mean these exact words but the Sentiment ought to be daily inculcated. Our Worthy Friend Dr. P. just called in upon me last night just as I had wrote it down and approved of it much and was greatly delighted with the Motto thoughts. I have again consulted the Workmen and and find if a quantity can be taken of those Plates. I can deliver them free on Board for Six pounds Sterling & Hundred weight id est 112 pl. Package included and I can get 8 Ton done & Month. I herewith send you 2 others a little polished to Shew the Metal in a Better dress the one is an ounce the other an half ounce weight

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM
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VOL 16 FRAME 118

And if the one was to pay
part of a Dollar and th
part of a Dollar they
counterfeited and be
the English copper Com
those Coined for Virgi
in Short, whether you ha
half pennys, or Penny
and I have good Bills
or Liberty to draw at 2 Usan
they shall be done to
allways the best Meta
the order the better ha
soon as possible or wh
orders may arrive.
Emblim on the revers
in use. The Worthies
well wisher than my
she is much yours th
health. I am allways
friends are so. I thank
to Mr Sterry he is w
you know I am an
not expect them fro
expect to find in one
London Nov 19

E. Bridgen 118
19 Novr 1779

112
16
672
112
1792

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM
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VOL 16
FR 118

VOL 16 FRAME 118

And if the one was to pass for a halfpenny on the 108th part of a Dollar and the other for a penny or 54th part of a Dollar they would be less liable to be counterfeited and be 33 1/3 pCt more valuable than the English copper Coin and 58 pCt more than those Coined for Virginia many Years ago, in Short, whether you have the size of Farthings, half pennys, or Pennys, if a quantity is ordered and I have good Bills of Exchange on the delivery or Liberty to draw at 2 Usance when I send the Bill of Lading they shall be done to any size you order and allways the best Metal and the sooner I have the order the better however I beg to know as soon as possible or when you can guess such orders may arrive. The Snake would be a good Emblem on the reverse it is already very proper in use. The Worthies have not a more sincere well wisher than my Patty and consequently she is much yours tho: in a very poor State of health, I am allways well & happy when my friends are so. I thank you much for your Attention to Mr Sterry he is worthy of it. As to Politics you know I am an ignorant Fellow so you must not expect them from me But you may ever expect to find in me my Dear Sir

A faithful & affect Friend

London Nov 19 1779

VOL 16 FR118

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As this will be delivered into your own hands by the bearer who is going to reside at Versailles I beg leave my Dr. Sir if she should have at any time occasion for your countenance I beg the favour that you will grant it her but I hope she will not want it: I wish Sir to know if there is any prospect of proceeding on the Copper Coin.

May I also beg the favour of your Interest and Attention to Mr Parkers request he is a very honest Man, but distressed on Acct. of laying out of his Property and his being a steady Friend I should hope would recommend him to have his property restored May Health, Happiness and every good Attend you and Yours is the Sincere wish of

Dr. Sir:

Your faithful & affect.

Mr Parkers papers are inclosed to Dr Bancroft

Edward Bridgen

May 11

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VOL 31 FRAME 171

Bridgen — '71

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VOL 31 FRAME 171

175

Monsieur

Je suis chargé par mon ami M. Ed. Bridgen de vous faire parvenir le paquet ci joint. Je vous serai obligé de m'honorer d'un mot de réponse pour m'en accuser la réception

Je suis avec un attachement aussi respectueux que sincere

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur

Genet chef du Bureau des Interpretes

à Versailles ce 29. Sept 1778

VOL III FRAME 175

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CM

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Genet Versailles 29.7.bre 175
1779.

M. Benjamin Franklin Ministre
plenip. des Etats unis d'Amerique
a Passy

VOL 11 FRAME 175

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Benj Franklin at Passy to Robert Livingston at Phila — 12/24/82

The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence, edited by Francis Wharton Washington 1889 Vol VI p 163

" Passy, December 24, 1782

" Sir:

***

The commissioners have joined in a letter to you, recommending the consideration of a proposal from Mr. Budgen relating to copper coin. With this you have a copy of that proposal and a sample of the copper. If it should be accepted I conceive the weight and value of the pieces (charge of coinage deducted) should be such that they be aliquot parts of a Spanish dollar. By the copy enclosed of an old letter of mine to Mr Budgen you will see the ideas I had of the additional utility such a coinage might be of in communicating instruction.

***

B. Franklin

Letter dated Nov 19, 1779 from Edward Bridgen at London to Benj Franklin
Amer Philosophical Society Library
Vol 16 Frame 118

"Dear Sir

The letter you favoured me with dated Oct. 2 never reached me until the 15th Currant therefore for the future I beg my letters may be addressed to Bridgen & Waller in London with a small B just under the Seal and sent under cover a Monsieur Mons I. B. Hermans a Bureau de la poste A Anvers and though Antwerp is a little round about they will come safe. I am vastly pleased with the mottos for the medals. Will you permit me to add one? The safety of the State is in the Jealousy of 7d People I don't mean these exact words but the sentiments ought to be daily inculcated. Our Worthy Friend Dr. F just called in upon me last night just as I had wrote it down and approved of it much and was greatly delighted with the Motto thoughts. I have again consulted the Workmen and and Find if a quantity can be taken off those Plates I can deliver them free on Board for Six pounds sterling p. Hundred Weight id est 112 lbs p Cwt Package included and I can get 8 Ton done p month. I herewith send you 2 others a little polished to show the Metal in a Better dress the one is an ounce the other in half ounce weight and if the one was to pass for a halfpenny or the 108 part of a Dollar and the other for a penny or 54th part of a Dollar they would be less liable to be counterfeited and be 33 1/3 p.Ct more valuable than the English copper coin and 58 p Ct more than those coined for Virginia many years ago. in Short whether you have the size of farthings, halfpennys or Pennys, if a quantity is ordered and I have good Bills of Exchange on the delivery or Liberty to draw at 2 mo. avise when I send the Bill of Lading they shall be done to any size you advise and allways the best metal and the sooner I have the order the better However I beg to know as soon as possible or when you can guess such orders may arrive. The snake would be a good Emblem on the reverse Ars

already very properly in use [the Worthies
have not a more sincere well wisher than
my Patty and consequently she is much yours
tho: in a very poor state of ~~the~~ health . I am
allways well ~~and~~ & happier when my friends arise
I thank you much for your attention to ~~Mr~~
Mr Henry he is worthy of it. As to Politicians you
know I am an ignorant Fellow so you need
not expect ~~[illegible]~~ them from me . But you may ~~[illegible]~~
ever expect to find ~~is~~ one my Dr Sir]

London Novr 19, 1779 A faithful & Affect
Friend "

On the back of this letter is a
~~Contains~~ calculation by Franklin of the
number of ounces in a hundred ~~Weight~~ as follows:

"
112
16
672
112
1792 "

Letter written by Edme Jacques Genet from Versailles
to Benj Franklin at Passy, dated Sept 29, 1779

Amer Philosophical Society
Vol 11 Frame 175

Monsieur

Je suis chargé par mon ami M. Ed. Budgen de vous faire parvenir le paquet ci joint. Je vous serai oblige de m'honor d'un mot pour m'en accuser la reception

Je suis un attachment aussi respectereux que sincere

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et
tres obeissant serviteur

a Versailles ce 29 Sep, 1779

Genet

Bureau de
Interpreter

the date is 1779 not 1778 as Budgen's letter of Sept 17, 1779 refers to this delivery of samples by Genet.

this letter is not in French style and is a translation of an English letter or is written by an English person
there are no accents

Chartered by Congress
1912

American Numismatic Association

Heath Literary Award

To: Eric P. Newman

in recognition of your outstanding literary contribution published in THE NUMISMATIST during the year 1956.

Third Award

Elston B. Bradfield
Editor

[illegible]
President

J. Hewitt Judd
Awards Chairman

Lewis M. Reagan
General Secretary

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LITHO IN U.S.A.